Serving The People Of The Hunters Point-Bayview

THE SPOKESMAN

VOL. 1, NO. 7 Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1965

POVERTY STAFF KNOCKS

KNOCK! KNOCK! "My name is John Doe and I work for the Poverty Program in this community. Can I talk to you for a few moments?"

These words are part of a procedure that will be very common and popular in this community for the next two months. In an effort to find out what community needs and problems are from those who live here, the Poverty staff will be knocking on doors of residents to find out their feelings.

The process of knocking on doors will be one of many ways used to get the community involved in determing what programs they would like to see in their communtiy. Questionnaires will be mailed out to some people in the community; group meetings and block meetings will also be used to find out what people want in the community.

All the information gathered by the staff will be used by the Area Planning Board as guidelines to get the programs the people of the community desire.

Area Director George Napper states, "I have been instructed by the Area Planning Board and its Program committee to wage an all out effort to find out from the residents themselves what they want to have in their community. The residents must and have to be involved at every level."

In order to clarify some questions, Napper further stated the following: "Most programs in Hunters Point funded with 1964-65 Federal monies are slated to start January 1, 1966. The reason why they are starting late is due to the time-consuming struggle between the Mayor and representatives of the poor from the target areas as to who was going to control the Poverty Program.

For the fiscal year 1965-66, San Francisco has been allocated $3 million. How it is to be divided up among the target areas has not been established yet. However, in order to get new programs funded before the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 1966) all programs must be in Washington at least two months before that date for adequate evaluation."

When you hear that "knock! knock!" sound from a member of the poverty staff, open your door and let your feelings be known.

SEASONAL WORK AVAILABLE SOON

The California State Employment Service is announcing a Civil Service Examination for part-time or seasonal work for Employment & Claims Assistant, and Employment and Claims Assistant, Mexican-Spanish Speaking. Persons who pass the written and oral examination and are selected will be engaged in work on a part-time, irregular basis to work in offices of the Department of Employment in San Francisco. They will be trained in giving job and unemployment insurance information to job seekers, referring workers to jobs, taking job orders from employers, and helping in many programs of the Department of Employment.

Starting pay is $2.65 per hour with regular increases for satisfactory performance to a maximum rate of $3.23 an hour.

The work is seasonal, depending on work load in the offices. A person in this classification may work several hours a day, several days a week, or full time up to nine months each year. The job openings may be in any one of the San Francisco Department of Employment Offices, including the Adult Opportunity Center which is going to be established at Hunters Point.

To be eligible to take the examination a person must be a citizen; he must have completed High School and have had two years of paid or voluntary experience in clerical, sales, professional or managerial duties. Work experience can be substituted for High School graduation, and school can be substituted for work experience.

Written examination will be given on December 18, 1965. Applications must be filed in person on December 13th, 14th and 15th between 8:00 AM to 5 PM at the Department of Employment office at 1450 Mission Street, San Francisco.

For more information and an application form, contact your local Anti-Poverty Area Planning Office at 3rd and Palou Street.

Though this is not the usual classification for career jobs with the Department of Employment, many people have worked enough time in these seasonal jobs to become eligible for regular career jobs with the Employment Service. Residents of Hunters Point should take advantage of this opportunity to learn to do a professional job through on-the-job experience.

OLD OPERA HOUSE IS NEW CENTER

The Bayview Neighborhood Community Center, a district landmark at 1201 Mendell Street, is currently in the process of transposing the major portion of its program to the Old South San Francisco Opera House at Third and Newcomb. The Opera House has been leased by the Board of Directors of the Community Center with hopes that it might serve to provide needed physical space for an ever expanding program.

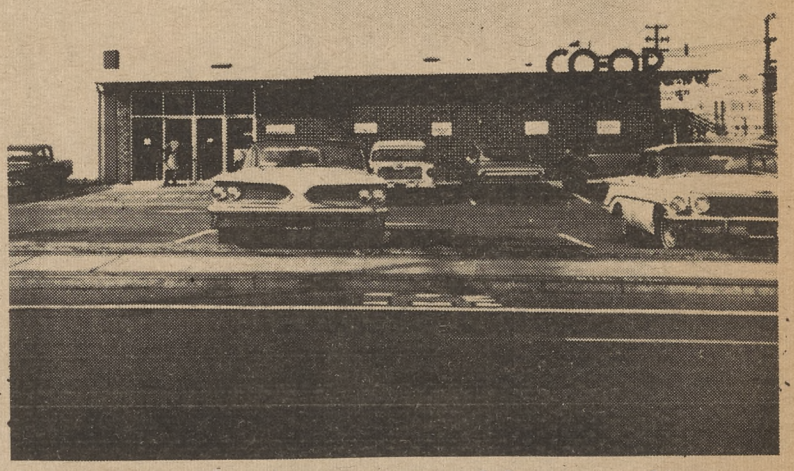
It seems almost ironic that a 19th century structure, created to serve the culturally affluent, will today exist as an arm of the 20th century Poverty Program. The Bayview Neighborhood Community Center is recognized nationally as well as locally as an indefatigable opponent of poverty and its multitude of causes.

However, since its opening in 1954, the center has been plagued by a scarcity of space, therefore, curtailing the potential for large scale ongoing programming. It is anticipated that the confines of the Opera House, covering approximately a block of space, will at least afford the opportunity for an accommodating community program.

The Opera House, a three story building possesses a labyrinth of rooms which are to be utilized for meetings, individual and group counseling and testing. Larger rooms will provide needed space for small game activities and arts and craft type programs. In addition the facility has a large auditorium with stage, formally used for operatic productions. It is proposed that this large confine might serve to accommodate large scale events such as conferences, formals, talent shows and stage productions. Moreover, it is expected that local organizations will contract with the community center for semi permanent use of available physical space. The center would in effect, become headquarters for these organizations.

To acquaint the community with its "new" structure and its projected program, the Centers Board and Staff are planning a Open House program. This 14 day program, commencing December 15th will include movies, a fashion show, an international dinner, workshops, food tasting and guest celebrities. The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend all Open House events. The telephone number of the Bayview Neighborhood Community Center is 285-3317. Any inquiries relative to open house and/or center operation in general should be directed to said number.

One would hope that the public will turn out to witness both, the unveiling of history, and its beginning.



Co-op redesigns to add new liquor department.

NEW LOOK PROMISED BY HOUSING DIRECTOR

'New Look' Promised by Housing Director

"A totally new maintenance look and procedure" is what Mr. Eneas Kane, Director of the housing authority has promised. In his words to the Housing Commission and elsewhere recently, Mr. Kane, has stated his intentions with regard to Hunters Point units scheduled for destruction in August, 1969 and before. His plan has three main components.

First of all, Mr. Kane hopes to schedule personal meetings with tenant groups, The Area Planning Board, ministerial groups and others who have interest in the future of the area. He hopes that the people who live in the area will have a real voice in its future and he wishes to insure that future construction will be such that those now living in the project will be eligible for it.

Secondly, those units which will remain in use for the next four years are in for what he calls, "a totally new maintenance look." When asked by one of our editors if this included painting the outside of the buildings, Mr. Kane said, "absolutely."

Finally, Mr. Kane has put forth his long range plan for the demolition process so that mass evictions will never have to occur. This involves the moving of families presently living in fringe areas into core areas so that the outer buildings can be razed as they become empty. No "new" families will be moved into temporary units from now on.

Having toured the project on his own, to see it "through his own eyes," Mr. Kane agrees with many of the residents that the Physical condition of the buildings is "abominable." He has made public his intention to make important changes. We welcome the prospect.

Butchertown



Birthday Party Sunday December 5, 1965 at the well known personality club. The many guests at the party enjoyed sparkling champaign and delicious African chicken prepared by Mr. Personality, Sam Jordan. The beautiful bunnies were dressed up for the night to celebrate Miss Corene Bowman's 1965 birthday. Bunnies Cecilia Holland and Corene Bowman add a delightful and pleasant tone to the congenial atmosphere of Sam Jordan's Personality Club. Drop in and meet the bunnies, they are at the club every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Chuck Hunter's trio appears with the bunnies to provide provocative and soulful music.

Left to right: Miss Marie Sterling, Sir Donald, bunnies Corene Bowman and Cecilia Holland.

Y.M.C.A. Hosts Series Of Events

Holiday events scheduled by the YWCA are now open to the public and include lectures, movies, recitals and plays.

Genevieve Boyreuther of the San Francisco Police Department will lecture on "Protect yourself and your purse" at the Downtown YW, Wednesday, December 8, at 7:45 p.m. Admission is free to YWCA members and $1 for guests.

On Friday, December 10, the Downtown YW will show Gregory Peck's film, "Man with a Million." Admission will be $1 for non-members, and fifty cents for members and children.

A dance recital by children who study at the Clay St. YW center will be held at Victory Hall, 827 Stockton, Sunday, December 12 at 2 p.m. Admission is free.

Back at the Downtown YW, the public is invited to a showing of "The Mouse that Roared," starring Peter Sellers, Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. Admission is $1 for non-members, and fifty cents for members and children.

In the western addition, at the 1830 Sutter St. YWCA Aldridge Players West will present the play "The Emperor's New Clothes" on Friday and Saturdays December 3, 4, 10 and 11, Friday, December 17, and Sunday, December 19.

Curtain time for "Emperor" is 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is $1.50 for adults and fifty cents for children. A special party rate admits two adults and fifteen children for $8.

For further information about any of these programs, readers may call the Downtown YWCA at 775-6500, the Caly center at 982-3922, and the 1830 Sutter center at 921-3814.

Support Our Advertisers

Editorial

A CRITICAL MOMENT

Though the purpose and goals of this paper have been stated, I must take this opportunity to remind our readers and the people of the Hunters Point Bayview area of these purposes and goals in relation to the community.

First it is apparent that this is a community newspaper dedicated to reporting news relevant to Hunters Point Bayview, and news that is of interest to those of this community. All articles printed in this newspaper are done in the best interest of the people, with hopes of presenting articles and views that will be used in a constructive manner. Simply stated, our objective is to provide a community service.

We are not critical in the sense that we hold ourselves out to be mere critics, but we offer constructive criticism in the hope that such will be interpreted as a positive suggestion for the benefit of the people.

Our objective is to help individuals, agencies, and groups in the community that are devoted to helping the people of this community. We exist to offer our services to these individuals, agencies, and groups in any reasonable manner.

This newspaper is of great value to all in the community. It provides all of us with news that we can read in no other paper, and advertisements by the local merchants. It also provides a medium to let people outside of this community know what is going on in this area.

I hasten to say that this paper requires a community effort of residents and merchants. Since this newspaper has no regular working reporters the residents are asked to forward news of the community to us. The merchants are asked to advertise with us, since the majority of all Third Street patrons are from this community. This kind of combined effort and unity is necessary to make this paper a success.

It is critical and timely at this point to mention the fact that the paper is in great need of voluntary help as we have much work to be done, and no funds to pay anyone. This is not to overlook the efforts of the devoted few who are largely responsible for its publication, for they have performed well. Nor is it to say that those who have promised a contribution did not have good intent.

The workers on this paper are beginners, and as such we have encountered some unforseen difficulties such as not having enough money and news. This doesn't reflect in any manner on those that are contributing now, but merely indicates that we need more contributions.

It is clear that we need less talk and promises and more work, but that phrase is often repeated but seldom practiced. This paper like any other organization or association builds its reputation from its performance. And it is not enough just to say we have good intentions and a noble purpose for we will be judged by the way we act and carry out these ends. It is ancient teaching that actions speak louder than words, but a lesson that only a few have learned. And it is clear today that it is not what you say that counts, but what you do, and even the law is clear on this point in that an intent alone will never be punished without an act.

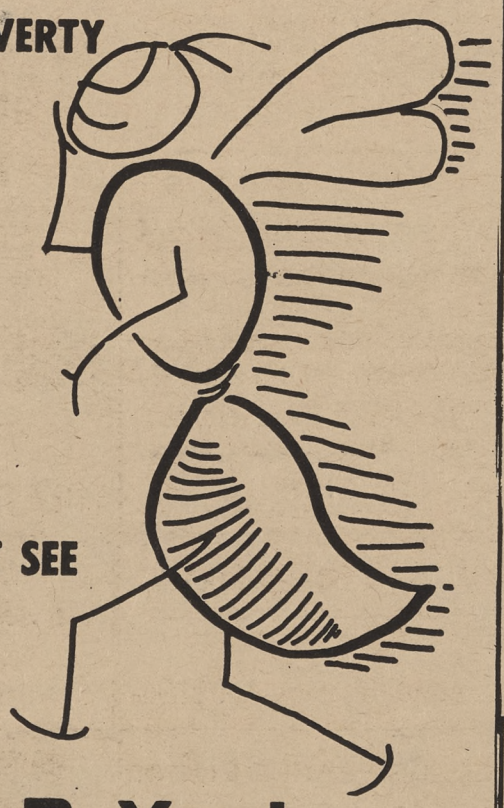
I now call on the people of this community who feel that this paper is worthy of their efforts to make a contribution in some tangible form, and this is directed particularly at the merchants, but does not exclude the residents.

Too long have the merchants in this community worked separately from the interest of the people that provide them with their income. There are a few who work in the interest of the community that are known by our readers through our advertisements. But for the most part we have no community participation by the merchants. Our relation with them is unilateral, that is we take our money and business to them but they refuse to reciprocate. This must stop. We are not like sheep to be herded to slaughter for the profit of a mercenary shepherd. We have no shepherd. We must be militant; we must be aggressive; we must be determined; and we must act. And those in the community that act as though they do not need us let us show them that we do not need them.

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Book On S.F. Poverty Struggle S.F.

Enemy of the Poor, The story of the struggle of the War on Poverty in San Francisco. By Willie Thompson. 36 pp., $1.00 -- Success Printing Co., 146 Leavenworth, San Francisco.

The poor people of San Francisco didn't suspect that politicians were among their enemies. They had been warned, by Michael Harrington, of the Farm Bueau, the tax-cut conservatives, certain elements of the business community, the racist and the real estate lobbiest, which in general plan our cities. These groups, according to Harrington, have a stake in the maintenance of poverty. The poor in San Francisco learned that politicians also have a stake in the maintenance of poverty. The poor have thus learned a valuable lesson. They shall now have to teach some.

Enemy of the Poor, the story of the struggle of the war on poverty in San Francisco, carefully documents mayor Shelley's attempt to keep the poor poor. He unilaterally interpreted the poverty legislation to exclude significant participation of the poor, and to include welfare people who are largely responsible for the conditions of poverty. He broke his promise to the poor, he and Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles, attempted to mobilize the nation's mayors against the poor. But, in the end, he was defeated by a coalition of poor people, Negroes, Chinese, Spanish - speaking and white.

These communities aligned themselves with an organization called Citizens United Against Poverty (CUAP), which was largely composed of Negroes from San Francisco. They comprised a solid organization with determination, skill and courage. If the San Francisco teaches a lesson other than that poor people can beat the Establishment, that further lesson is that the best tactics for victory are determination, skill, courage and radical demands that so depart from past behavior and demands that the mere suggestion is an audacious affront to the Establishment.

The San Francisco victory is much talked about because it is the first in the nation against those who would keep the poor poor. The eyes of the nation are upon San Francisco as an example of maximum feasible participation of the poor. This victory should raise the hopes and aspirations of poor people all over the country.

Black Facts



NEGROES IN CONFEDERACY: Confederacy was first to recognize the Negro as a military factor in the war. As noncombatants, Negroes were muscles and backbone of rebel war effort. South impressed Negro slaves to work in mines, repair railroads and build fortifications, thereby releasing a disproportionately large percentage of able - bodied whites for direct war service. Small number of Negroes enlisted in rebel army, but few Negroes, if any, fired guns in anger. Regiment of 1,400 free Negroes received official recognition in New Orleans. This regiment, however, did no fighting; it later became, by a strange mutation of history, the first Negro regiment officially recognized by the Union Army.

NEGROES IN UNION ARMY: The 178,975 Negro soldiers in the Union Army were organized into 166 all - Negro regiments (145 infantry, 7 cavalry, 12 heavy artillery, 1 light artillery, 1 engineer). Largest number of Negro soldiers came from Louisiana (24, 052), followed by Kentucky (23,703) and Tennessee (20,133). Pennsylvania contributed more Negro soldiers than any other Northern state (8,612). Negro soldiers participated in 449 battles, 39 of them major engagements. Sixteen Negro soldiers received Congressional Medals of Honor for gallantry in action. Some 37,638 Negro soldiers lost their lives during the war. Negro soldiers generally received poor equipment and were forced to do a large amount of fatigue duty. Until 1864, Negro soldiers (from private to chaplain) received $7 a month whereas white soldiers received from $13 to $100 a month. In 1863, Negro units, with four exceptions (Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry, Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers and Twenty - ninth Connecticut Volunteers) were officially designated "United States Colored Troops (USCT)." There were few Negro commissioned officers; the War Department discouraged Negro applicants. The highest - ranking of the 75 to 100 Negro officers was Lit. Colonel Alexander T. Augustana, a surgeon. Some 200,000 Negro civilians were employed by Union Army as laborers, cooks, teamsters and servants.

NEGROES IN UNION NAVY: One out of every four Union sailors was a Negro. Of the 118,044 sailors in the Union Navy, 29,511 were Negroes. At least four Negro sailors won Congressional Medals of Honor.

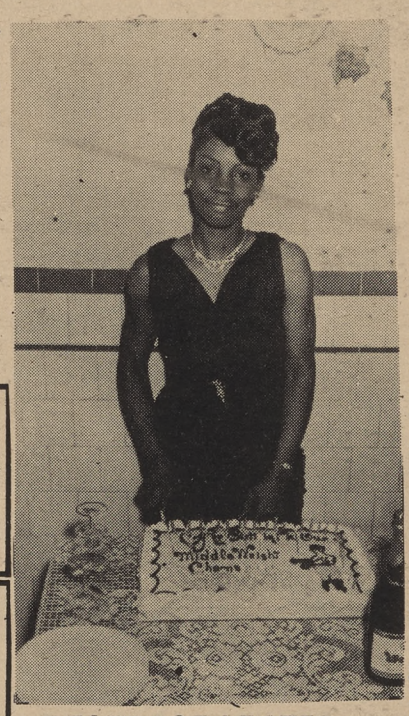
Jimmy Lester's Gala Birthday Party



LEFT TO RIGHT ARRON AND JIMMY LESTER

Little Esther Cooper who got her start at the Sam Jordan's Friendly Bar just on year ago and is now appearing as a professional at Swahilia Club in San Jose on the old Oakland road, hosted a party for middle weight champ Jimmy Lester.

Sparkling champaign was every where at the beautiful home of Jimmy's mother, who was also a host.



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Portrait of a Community Worker

George Earl, The New Breed

It has been said time and time again by people much wiser than this reporter that the future of this Country lies in the hands of our youth and young adults. This being the case, it becomes quite clear that somewhere along the line the heir - apparents to the roles of leadership and responsibility have to acquire the characteristics and the temperament that will have meaningful effect on, and to set examples for, those who would follow and for those who desire to acquire similar patterns of behavior.

With the establishment of the Block Organizations, this community has witnessed the emerging of more leadership to work side by side with the "old warriors" who have historically been on the war front for this community.

Significantly, among this rising leadership is a bright, dedicated young man by the name of George Earl. Significant because there is a scarcity of community involvement on the part of the younger generation. This reporter feels, and hopes that the spirit embodied in the young personality of Mr. Earl is the beginning of a new era of young adult community participation and therefore, "the new breed"!

This Spokesman Reporter has asked Mr. Earl to submit in writing what he sees, feels and thinks about his community. The following paragraphs are his words.

"I came to San Francisco in 1951 from Illinois and have been living in Hunters Point ever since except for military duty. Ifinished Galileo High, went to City College and Art School. I have a darling wife and three children.



I've been interested in community activities for a long time but have just realized that I could be doing more than just being interested. So, as a result, I became actively engaged in community activities. Presently, I am Chairman of Block "C", Chairman of the Credit Committee of the Credit Union and BAND, and Vice Chairman of the Bayview Hunters Point Community Development Corporation; also a member of IBC and Chairman of that organization's school committee.

Some of the problems I see in our community are: (1) the lack of interest throughout the young married and single men and women in the community. In a time when togetherness can mean a lot, not only for us but the future generations to come. The older citizens are doing a wonderful job, but I also think it is just as much the responsibility of the youth as it is theirs. I would like to see more of our young men take the lead and carry the bulk of the load for our women instead of vice-versa. (2) The lack of communication throughout the entire community is second. This paper is doing a wonderful job towards correcting this problem but it will take more work and more of our people engaged in community work to insure proper communication for everyone. Organizational communication is also difficult to maintain. I would like to see more togetherness between the different groups and organizations working in the area. We are all working for the same goal, the betterment of our community, so let's pitch in together and strengthen our hands toward that goal.

One of the things I would like to see come about in this area is an organization with representatives from every organization founded. Not to gain power, but to come together and talk about the different problems and programs come or in the entire community. In return, each representative would be more able to keep his organization informed and up to date. I would like to see more programs involving the youth, such as recreational programs, swimming pools, etc; educational programs such as the tutorial program being conducted at the Center; Little League Baseball and 7-11 Basketball. Maybe a skating rink or tennis courts. It's time to expose our children to all of it and not just tokenism."

The Spokesman Newspaper is pround to salute Mr. George Earl and his community involvement.

Your Community Role

The grass is greener over there. Over where? You know, over in the Sunset District, the Pacific Heights District, St. Francis Woods, over there. Aw, quit your dreaming and go to work. This is where we are in Hunters Point-Bayview at this time. No more dreaming, but a helluva lot of working.

We have schools to improve, persons needing training to become employable, youth crying out to be heard, and men desirous of once again becoming the head of the family. We have more than that for legislation of the past year has given us more streamlined tools to work with, the end product therefore must be improved.

The first re-tooling must be in the area of the individual self. The question of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you becomes very real in what we say and do to one another.

We then must move on to the problem of Unity within our own community. This is going to require a complete remodeling. There needs to be an abundance of trust and faith in our neighbors. Respect for those we live and work with every day, and above all, cooperation and integrity.

Our tools are there: The Civil Rights Bill, The Economic Opportunity Act, The Compensatory Education Bill and countless others. The tools are there, are we wise enough to use them effectively? The decision is ours, upon which we will stand or fall.

Easy Home Financing For Low Income Families

To qualify, families must consist of husband and wife with one of them employed, with at least one child and no more than four children. Income can be no less than $5,000 a year and no more than $5,700 for a one-child family. The allowable income increases with each child up to a minimum of $5,900 and a maximum of $6,400 for a four-child family.

The selected families may find their own houses or choose one to which they are referred by the Development Fund, Mrs. Eudey said. They must be single-family homes within 20 miles of San Francisco. So far no houses have been found under $16,000 which meet the qualifications for FHA loans.

Mrs. Eudy may be reached for further information at San Francisco Development Fund, 57 Post Street, San Francisco 94104, or by telephoning 434-1930. Families making application must be interviewed. Mrs. Eudey has offered to come to the Hunters Point-Bayview District for interviews if there is sufficient demand.

The search for 60 Bay Area lower income families who wish to own their own homes and appear able to take care of the monthly payments themselves after some help with the down payment and monthly payments for the first several years was described by Mrs. Elizabeth Eudey at the meeting of the Hunters Point-Bayview District Council on Friday, Dec. 3 at Milton Meyer Recreation Center.

Mrs. Eudey is administrator of the low income housing demonstration program which is operating with National Housing and Home Finance Agence funds. The purpose of the Bay Area project is to test whether certain selected families whose income level now makes the eligible for permanent public housing can be helped with modest government subsidies to purchase homes. The chosen families must appear to have a good chance of increasing their income within the next four years.

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